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For Independence and Freedom of the Fatherland,

For Socialism

NORTH VIET NAM HAS WORSTED U.S. WAR OF DESTRUCTION:

- * 3,243 U.S. Aircraft Downed
- * 143 U.S. Ships and Combat Launches Sunk or Damaged
- * Economic and Cultural Development Kept Up Despite Bombing
- * North Viet Nam Commitments to the South

VNPA High Command November 5, 1968 Communiqué

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NFL Representative to Paris Conference Preparatory Work Appointed

THE Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has appointed Professor Nguyen Thi Binh, member of the Front's Central Committee, as its representative in the preparatory work for the Paris Conference on Viet Nam.

South Viet Nam

- 150 GIs Put Out of Action in Tay Ninh Province, 31 Tanks Destroyed and 3 Choppers Shot Down.
- 300 Adverse Troops Wiped Out at Ben Cat.
- 4 L. C. M. Freighters Sunk and A Military Train Overturned in Saigon Region.
- 4 Choppers Downed on November 4 and 5, Northwest of Saigon and in Pleiku.
- Many Enemy Bases in South Viet Nam Bombarded.

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— Statement of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces Page 2

— Joint Communiqué of the C.C. of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the C.C. of Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces. Page 3

— Excerpts from report by Mrs. Nguyen Thi Dinh, P.L.A.F. deputy C-in-C, at All South Viet Nam Fourth Conference on Guerrilla War. Page 9

▶ P.L.A.F. men attacking the enemy in his last strongholds in South Viet Nam cities

South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation Central Committee Statement on Political Settlement of South Viet Nam Issue

FOR fourteen years now, in an attempt to turn South Viet Nam into a neo-colony and military base of the A.C. the U.S. imperialists have been pursuing a policy of aggression, the most heinous in history, against the Vietnamese people, in blatant violation of the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam which have been recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements.

They have installed to South Viet Nam an extremely brutal puppet regime, and have been trying to impose through fire and sword their domination on the South Vietnamese people.

However, united millions as one, the South Vietnamese people have risen up valiantly and have been fighting hard and perseveringly against the aggressors and the traitors. Under the glorious banner of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and with the wholehearted assistance of their northern compatriots and the staunch and strong sympathy and support of friendly governments and of the whole world's people, they have been winning increasingly substantial successes in their sacred war of resistance.

In an attempt to stave off

their complete collapse, the U.S. imperialists have committed a massive U.S. expeditionary force to direct aggression against South Viet Nam, waged a war of destruction on the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and have been perpetrating innumerable savage crimes everywhere in both zones of Viet Nam.

But no brutal forces can save the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen from ignominious failure.

Fighting with matchless heroism, the armed forces and people of North Viet Nam have shot down over 3,200 U.S. aircraft, defeated the U.S. war of destruction and fulfilled its duty as the great rear to the great front.

Their fellow-countrymen and combatants in South Viet Nam have foiled all the escalations of the U.S. war of aggression and, since early Spring this year, have been mounting continuous and co-ordinated offensives and uprisings, dealing thunder blows at the U.S. puppets right in their hideouts, recording victories of unparalleled magnitude in all fields, turning the tide of the war and driving the U.S. puppets deeper into a position of

(Continued from page 3)



SOUTH VIET NAM ALLIANCE:

"N.F.L. HAS DECISIVE ROLE IN VIET SOUTH VIET NAM SETTLEMENT"

THE Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic, and Peace Forces issued on Nov. 3, a statement on the present development of the struggle of the South Vietnamese people.

The statement regarded the U.S. Government's determination to cease completely its bombardments on the independence of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and to accept the participation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation in the coming discussions on a political settlement of the South Vietnam issue as "another serious setback for the U.S. and the Saigon administration" and "a fresh tremendous victory for the Vietnamese people in both zones".

It went on to say that after an exchange of views with the Central Committee of the N.F.L., the Alliance's Central Committee "firmly and unanimously" fully approved, and strong support for the position of the former on the political settlement of the South Viet

Nam issue and its decision to take part in the conversations in Paris as announced in the November 3, 1968 statement of the N.F.L. Central Committee.

"Such a position and decision is entirely sound, logical and reasonable. It is fully consistent with the fundamental and imperative aspirations and the self purpose of the 14 million South Vietnamese, and with the essentials of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam. It also completely conforms to the objectives of the Alliance as made clear in its Political Program, namely 'independence, freedom, democracy, peace, neutrality, prosperity, thus making possible the gradual achievement of the peaceful reunification of the country'."

The Alliance "once again affirms that the South Viet Nam N.F.L. is the great and principal fighting force of the entire South Vietnamese people's national united front directed against

U.S. aggression. The front consequently plays a decisive role and must be present in any discussions of a political settlement of the South Viet Nam problem."

The statement then stressed the Alliance's determination to "stand shoulder to shoulder with the masses of the South Vietnamese people, and vigorously back all its policies on the battlefield as well as at the conference table" and that it will "for joint actions and discussions with the South Viet Nam N.F.L. on all steps to regain national independence, restore peace, build the country, and bring about a free and happy life for the entire people" as has been made plain in the Alliance's National Solution Manifesto put out soon after its founding.

The statement sternly denounced the U.S. persistence in its neo-colonialist policy of war and aggression in South Viet Nam, and the Saigon puppet regime's downright vicious, treacherous

and anti-popular nature which has prompted it to oppose U.S. complete and unconditional bombing halt in North Viet Nam, an attitude utterly at variance with the people's aspirations for peace, unity, independence, democracy and better living conditions.

It called on "intellectuals, industrialists, leaders, personalities, youth, students, peasants and other working people in the area still under enemy control" to fight on for new and greater victories and on "officers and men of the puppet army and police, on official puppet administration" to take stock of the situation, promptly rise up and join in the people's struggle.

The statement ended with a renewal of the Alliance's support for the four points of the D.R.V.N. government on the political settlement of the Viet Nam problem and sincere thanks to all champions of Viet Nam's cause throughout the world.

South Viet Nam National Front For Liberation...

(Continued from page 1)

passiveness and decline from what it is impossible for them to recover.

Under the impact of the violent and unflinching struggle and the gallant and comprehensive significance of the people's persistent out-look and under the pressure of the demand of the South Viet Nam world's peoples and of U.S. progressives, the U.S. government has been forced to agree to, and put into effect, an unconditional cessation of the bombardments on the whole territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. This is a tremendous victory of the people of all Viet Nam and of the peace-loving people in the world.

This, however, does not mean that the U.S. has given up its aggressive design against Viet Nam. It is obviously stepping up its war in South Viet Nam and clinging to the puppet administration in the South to maintain the neo-colonialist role in South Viet Nam.

1—The U.S. imperialists must put an end to its war of aggression against Viet Nam, withdraw all U.S. and satellite troops and completely stop its war in South Viet Nam, and remove all U.S. military bases from the South.

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3—The internal affairs of the South Vietnamese people must be settled by the South Vietnamese people themselves in conformity with the Political Program of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. It keeps claiming a prior for its ending on its war of aggression in North Viet Nam.

The South Vietnamese people and the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation firmly insist that the U.S. bring to a halt all acts of encroachment on the sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, put an end to their war of aggression in South Viet Nam, carry out all its pledges at the 1954 Geneva Conference for peace, and respect the inalienable national rights of the South Vietnamese people.

form with foreign countries, the establishment of friendly relations with all countries on the basis of the five principles of peaceful co-existence. Good neighborhood relations will be set up with the Kingdom of Cambodia on the basis of the five principles of peaceful co-existence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity. Good relations will be maintained with Laos on the basis of respect for the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Laos.

The U.S. imperialists are the aggressors. The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation is the organizer and leader of the South Vietnamese people's war of resistance against U.S. aggression, resistance which is going on from one victory to another. It is building up and developing a revolutionary administration from the South Vietnamese people. The Governments of many countries have recognized the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation as the authentic representative of the legitimate aspirations of the South Vietnamese people and is fully qualified to settle all questions concerning South Viet Nam.

It again expresses its support for the national united front, and unreserved support for the four points of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, which embody the aspirations and will of the entire Vietnamese people, and constitute the reasonable and just basis for the reunification of the Viet Nam issue.

In the present context of U.S. aggression, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation stands for a halt to all North Viet Nam, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation stands

ly supports the position of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam as made clear in its statement of November 2, 1968, regarding Viet Nam's solution to the Viet Nam problem. After discussions with the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic, and Peace Forces in which both sides have achieved complete agreement, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation agrees to a quadripartite conference involving the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the United States of America and the Saigon administration. At this conference the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation will act as spokesman of the South Vietnamese people, who have justice on their side.

The present administration in Saigon is but a clique of traitors to the country and henchmen of the U.S.; it betrays the legitimate aspirations of the South Vietnamese people as a whole. It has been strongly opposed by our people and spurred by progressives in the world. It does not represent anyone. The progress of the Saigon administration at the above-mentioned conference must involve its recognition by the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

The Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation calls upon all governments, all organizations and all democratic personalities, progressive groups and progressive forces in the world, including U.S. progressives, to give vigorous support to the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the people are prepared to welcome you.

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NFL AND VIET NAM ALLIANCE ISSUE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON PRESENT STRUGGLE

ON November 3, 4 and 5, 1968, a delegation of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and a delegation of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces held talks on problems concerning the present struggle of the South Vietnamese people and on its future line.

A joint communiqué was issued at the conclusion of the meeting.

1—The joint communiqué recorded the identity of views of both delegations concerning U.S. imperialism's responsibility for the wrecking of the 1954 Geneva Agreements, and the war of aggression against the Vietnamese people in both zones.

Both delegations expressed the U.S.-instigated South Viet Nam administration—from the Diem-Nhu brothers past rule to the present Thieu-Ky Huang regime—as "but a gang of puppets, henchmen and traitors who have willingly sold out the South Viet Nam people and invited in the American expeditionary troops to trample upon their country and enslave their compatriots. It is an utterly reactionary and rotten regime which cannot survive only thanks to U.S. bayonets and dollars."

The N.F.L. and the Viet Nam Alliance warmly hailed the victories scored by the Vietnamese people in their resistance to U.S. aggression, especially, in the course of their general offensives and simultaneous uprisings in South Viet Nam since 1967, this year, which led to the U.S. unconditional ending of the bombardments of

(Continued page 8)

Letter from Hanoi

I may cause you some surprise if I tell you that these days of November 1968 remind me of something which happened 35 years ago. It was in 1930, thousands of angry peasants were marching on them with an infernal shrieking noise, people were struck with panic and fled in every direction, jumping into bushes or hiding behind bushes.

June 1944 came. The Anglo-American air forces were now masters of the air and ruled the coast in European style, opening the way to the landing of infantry.

Having lived through these events, I was inclined to think that a line could be drawn between these two phases

Paris D.R.V.N.—U.S. Talks Viet Nam Envoy: "Paris Quadripartite Conference - New Phase in Search for Viet Nam Peace"

In a press conference held on Nov. 3 to make public the D.R.V.N. government's statement on the U.S. unconditional cessation of North Viet Nam bombardments, Minister of State Xuan Thuy, D.R.V.N. representative at the Paris talks, declared in connection with the coming Paris quadripartite conference that it would open a new phase in the search for a peaceful solution for the Viet Nam problem. This phase, he added, will be different from

the earlier one in which the D.R.V.N. and the U.S. held official conversations to ascertain with the U.S. side the unconditional cessation of U.S. bombardments and all other acts of war against North Viet Nam.

On the presence of the Saigon administration's representative at the coming conference, the D.R.V.N. chief negotiator said: "We have always made clear that the National Front for Liberation is the genuine pre-

sentative of the South Vietnamese people. The Saigon administration has been created by the U.S. to carry out its policy. Its participation in the Paris talks was proposed by the U.S. and accepted by the D.R.V.N. and the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation as a token of their goodwill and desire to move towards peace. Such a gesture does not in any way involve recognition of the Saigon administration."

Mc Nguyen Thanh Le:

U.S. and Saigon Administrations Fully Responsible for Failure of Conference to Open on Schedule

In a press conference held in Paris on November 6, Mr. Nguyen Thanh Le, spokesman of Minister Xuan Thuy, representative of the D.R.V.N. Government at the Paris conversations, made public the following statement:

"To show its goodwill and to move toward peace, the D.R.V.N. Government, after consultation with the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, has agreed with the U.S. on the holding of a quadripartite conference to be attended by the representatives of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the South

Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the United States and the Saigon administration with a view to a peaceful solution to the Viet Nam problem.

"As indicated in our November 1st, 1968 press communiqué, the conference will be convened in Paris on November 6.

"At the November 3 press conference, the D.R.V.N. Government's representative at the Paris talks announced the D.R.V.N. acceptance of the 6th of November as the opening day of the said talks by the representative of the U.S. government.

"In its November 3 statement, the Central Committee of the N.F.L. agreed to send a representative to that conference.

"On November 4, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, member of the N.F.L. C.C. and representative of the N.F.L., arrived in Paris to attend the preparatory meeting for the said conference. At a new conference in Paris on November 5, she declared her readiness to take part in it on November 6.

"The above facts show the goodwill and reasonable attitude of the D.R.V.N. and the N.F.L.

"Yet, the representative of the D.R.V.N. Government was notified on November 3 by the representative of the U.S. government that as the representative of the Saigon administration had not yet arrived in Paris, the conference could not take place on

November 6. Thus, the U.S. side has not abided by the agreement reached with the representative of the D.R.V.N. Government.

"The representative of the D.R.V.N. Government suggested that in case the representative of the Saigon administration arrived in time, the conference would begin all the same on November 6 between three parties—the D.R.V.N., the N.F.L. and the U.S.—and that the representative of the Saigon administration could join after he arrived. This, however, was not agreed to by the representative of the U.S. government.

"As a result, the quadripartite conference scheduled for November 6, failed to take place. The U.S. and the Saigon administration must be held fully responsible for such an occurrence."

Answering a question from the audience, Mr. Nguyen Thanh Le specified that the proposal to hold the Conference on November 6 had been put forward by none other than the U.S. and it had been accepted by the D.R.V.N. and the N.F.L. sides.

On the same day, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Binh, member of the N.F.L. C.C. and representative of the N.F.L., arrived in Paris to attend the preparatory meeting for the said conference. At a new conference in Paris on November 5, she declared her readiness to take part in it on November 6.

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North Viet Nam Was Worsted U.S. War of Destruction

VNPA High Command 5 November 1968 Communique on Victory over U.S. War of Destruction (Excerpts)*

HUGE MEANS, ODOUS CRIMES

FOR more than four years, along with intensifying their war of aggression in South Viet Nam, U.S. imperialists recklessly and frantically waged a war of destruction against North Viet Nam in an effort to get out of their losing situation in the South.

In execution of this strategic plan, the U.S. imperialists used considerable air and naval forces and all modern equipment and techniques at their disposal and resorted to the most savage methods in their whole arsenal to get out of their losing situation on the whole territory of North Viet Nam.

They deployed on the Viet Nam battlefield a big air force with thousands of modern planes. They committed to the North Viet Nam people more than 10 types of aircraft, from the F-105 and F-4 to the latest models of their arsenal to the swing-wing F-111A and B-52 strategic bombers. From April 1968 onward, U.S. planes flew a million average of 10,000 sorties against Nghe An, Ha Tinh and Quang Binh provinces and Vinh Lanh area.

The U.S. imperialists mobilized the

whole of their Seventh Fleet, the biggest armada of the U.S. Navy reinforced with many warships of other naval forces. Almost all their aircraft-carriers were commissioned in this war in rotation.

In attacking the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the U.S. imperialists committed heinous war crimes:

— They brazenly floated every international law, and encroached upon a socialist country, an independent and sovereign country.

— They cynically resorted to barbarous means and weapons of all kinds including steel pellet, napalm phosphorus bombs and toxic chemicals against our people, making indiscriminate raids on numerous schools, hospitals, churches, temples, pagodas, dykes, dams, etc.

The U.S. imperialists poured on North Viet Nam nearly one million tons of bombs and shells, more than the amount used in the three years of war in Korea and many times higher than that dropped on Japan during World War Two.

HEAVY LOSSES BUT NO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES ATTAINED

THE U.S. imperialists hoped with a war of destruction against North Viet Nam to intimidate our people and shake their determination to resist U.S. aggression, they hoped to undermine socialist construction in the North, prevent North Vietnamese active assistance to their Southern kith-and-kin, and boost the sinking morale of the puppet army and administration.

Realities, however, disappointed their dark designs. All basic strategic objectives of the U.S. remained unachieved.

In South Viet Nam, our armed forces and people maintained and kept up their offensive repeatedly, foiled the enemy's strategic counter-offensives and drove them into a defensive and passive posture.

In only 8 months, our armed forces and people attacked series of cities and towns, big or small, including Saigon, Hue and Da Nang, liberated many vast populated rural areas, inflicted more than half a million enemy casualties including nearly 180,000 U.S. and satellite troops, shot down or destroyed on the ground over 5,000 aircraft, and wrecked over 10,000 military vehicles including over 6,000 tanks and armoured cars.

This historic victory has brought about a new war situation very favourable to us and utterly unfavourable to the enemy.

Our position has become increasingly steadier and our strength has not ceased growing.

In North Viet Nam our armed forces and people recorded tremendous victories. By November 1, 1968, 3,243 U.S. aircraft had been shot down, thousands of air pirates

had been killed, wounded, or captured. Our armed forces and people had on 143 occasions sunk or damaged enemy warships or commando-boats.

In the thick of war, the North, fighting while building itself, has been growing up constantly. Our socialist construction continued to progress unceasingly. Our economic potential has been strengthened.

Our national defence potential has expanded considerably.

Communications and transport continue uninterrupted, linking the rear base to the front.

Public security and order have been maintained. Our people's life remains stable.

The North has become strong enough to defend itself successfully and fulfil its historic mission as a revolutionary base of the whole country and as a great rear base of the great front—heroic South Viet Nam.

GREAT STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR VICTORY OVER U.S. WAR OF DESTRUCTION

FIRST, our victory over the U.S. war of destruction has frustrated a strategic scheme of the enemy, inflicted a partial defeat on their war of aggression against our country and a telling blow on their aggressive design. It is a common victory of our armed forces and people throughout the country which can be credited to the militant solidarity between the North and the South.

Second, it constituted a setback for a new form of warfare in the U.S. imperialists' war of aggression. Firmly grasping and successfully carrying out the political and military line of our Party, we have brought into full play the combined strength and great effectiveness of people's war, and defeated an important air and naval force of the U.S. imperialists, the most brutal of all imperialists. This has illustrated the invincible strength of the peoples' war and the bankruptcy of the imperialist military science. It has also proved our people's capability of getting the better of any kind of aggressive war of any imperialist that dares have views upon our country.

Third, the repeated and great victories of our armed forces and people in both parts of the country have instilled more confidence into our people and strengthened their determination to fight till final victory. They have rejoiced our brothers and friends on all the five continents and inspired fear in the enemy. The series of heavy U.S. setbacks in Viet Nam have had a serious impact on the political and economic situation in the United States and impaired its prestige in the world.

- The above victories were due to:
1. the very sound and imaginative political and military line and conduct of the war of our Party headed by President Ho Chi Minh;
 2. the superiority and solidity of our socialist regime;
 3. the unshakable determination to fight and to win and the close unity of our armed forces and people;
 4. the encouragement and wholehearted assistance given us by the brother socialist countries and our friends on every continent...

ON this occasion, the VNPA High Command warmly congratulates the various categories of troops and arms on their glorious exploits and cites them on the honour list.

It expresses its profound gratitude and warm congratulations to the people and cadres in various regions, to all nationalities and religious communities, to the cadres of various services and mass organisations for their solidarity with, and assistance to, the people's armed forces and for their contribution to the building of the armed forces, and for their selfless dedication in serving the front...

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* Shells and bold-faced emphasis are ours.

LANDMARKS OF VICTORY

AFTER 30 months, the war of destruction conducted by the U.S. imperialists against North Viet Nam has come to grief. In 6 months, the U.S. super-army—aviation—has been brought to utter failure.

May 18—December 24, 1965:

AGGRESSION PUNISHED ALL OVER NORTH VIET NAM

AN UNPLEASANT SURPRISE FOR HIM WHO EXPECTED TO TAKE OTHERS BY SURPRISE

IN mid-1964, the U.S. "special war" in South Viet Nam had undoubtedly failed for short of its purposes. To remedy this situation, the Pentagon contemplated a reproduction of the famous "incident" of the destroyer *Maine* which, in 1898, helped the U.S. gain its foothold in Cuba at the expense of the Spanish colonialists. On August 1 and August 4, it concocted the 1st and 2nd "Tonkin Gulf incidents", claiming that one of its destroyers had been attacked on the high seas by P.T. boats of the D.R.V.N. Next day, without any warning, Johnson hurled his aircraft for the aggressors: 8 of their warplanes were shot down, and several pilots killed or captured. Johnson succeeded in winning a Senate vote for a decision allowing him to openly intervene in the war.

On November 18, of the same year, another raid on the Western area of Quang Binh province cost the aggressors 3 more aircraft.

Enemy losses skyrocketed: 848 planes were brought down and many pilots captured. Twelve fighter-bombers were knocked down in a single day, on August 7 and on December 2, and in a month, between July 17 and August 17, our AA defence brought down 138 U.S. planes.

In our territorial waters, 28 enemy ships received direct hits from our gunners.

Results: in 13 months, 1,121 U.S. planes and helicopters were shot down by our antiaircraft defence, hundreds of pilots taken prisoner and 77 ships and boats sunk or damaged by our guns, while U.S. batteries based at Con Tien and Doc Mieu sustained very serious damage and losses.

Some records: 10 enemy planes downed in a single day (Nov. 19, 1967) and in a month (May 1967); our coastal defence hit 7th Fleet ships 16 times in a month (May 1967).

For their part, shore batteries sank or damaged enemy ships and boats 6 times.

THE beginning of 1966 saw the great fiasco of the first dry-season counter-offensive in South Viet Nam. Washington raised its stakes. U.S. and Viet Tri and B-52s carried out carpet bombings of the Western part of Quang Binh province. On June 20, 1966, Hanoi and Halphong were bombed.

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March 31—November 1, 1968:

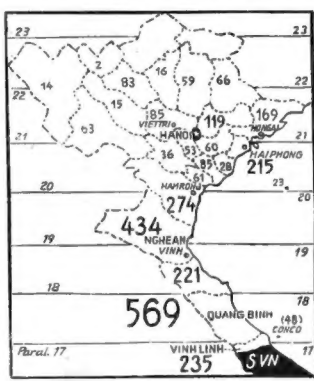
U.S. "LIMITED" BOMBING FAILURE SEALED THE FATE OF THE WAR OF DESTRUCTION

END Jan.—early Feb., the generalized attacks and popular uprisings in South Viet Nam came as a bombshell, irremediably tipping the balance of forces in favour of the patriots. The ineffectiveness of the war of destruction in North

The above was the essential reason which led to the decision to stop all air, naval and artillery bombardments of the D.R.V.N. as from November 1, 1968.

FACTS AND FIGURES

HOW U.S. WAR OF DESTRUCTION WAS DEFEATED



THE U.S. planes grounded in North Viet Nam became long to 47-617 firms. Nearly all types of actual military operations have been shot down by our anti-aircraft defence. "conventional" A-guns and ground-to-air missiles, fighter planes, anti-air guns, and even simple infantry rifles. Let us mention as instances and only the most "ultra-modern" of them:

— fighter-bombers Phantom (F-4C and F-4D), Thunderbolt (F-105D), F-107F, Intruder (A-6A), Corsair (A-7), TF-1 (swing-wing), F-111A, etc.

— jet and electro-manned or unmanned reconnaissance planes EB-66, RF-4C, 147J, QF 50A...

AMONG the thousands of pilots killed, wounded or captured were many "aces" of the U.S. air force with a record of several thousand flight hours, some of them had even been decorated for flights. Their grades ranked between second lieutenant and colonel in the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps. Let us note in passing that, according to American sources, the cost of training a complete pilot costs 773,000 U.S. dollars.

YEARLY break-down:

Year	Number of enemy planes shot down	Number of ships and boats sunk or damaged
1964	12	1 (the USS Maddox)
1965	894	13
1966	773	22
1967	557	36
(up to Nov. 1)	3943	143

THE number of enemy planes downed represents more than 50% of its F-105 bi-plane fighters-bombers.

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THE U.S. planes grounded in North Viet Nam became long to 47-617 firms. Nearly all types of actual military operations have been shot down by our anti-aircraft defence. "conventional" A-guns and ground-to-air missiles, fighter planes, anti-air guns, and even simple infantry rifles. Let us mention as instances and only the most "ultra-modern" of them:

— fighter-bombers Phantom (F-4C and F-4D), Thunderbolt (F-105D), F-107F, Intruder (A-6A), Corsair (A-7), TF-1 (swing-wing), F-111A, etc.

— jet and electro-manned or unmanned reconnaissance planes EB-66, RF-4C, 147J, QF 50A...

AMONG the thousands of pilots killed, wounded or captured were many "aces" of the U.S. air force with a record of several thousand flight hours, some of them had even been decorated for flights. Their grades ranked between second lieutenant and colonel in the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps. Let us note in passing that, according to American sources, the cost of training a complete pilot costs 773,000 U.S. dollars.

YEARLY break-down:

Year	Number of enemy planes shot down	Number of ships and boats sunk or damaged
1964	12	1 (the USS Maddox)
1965	894	13
1966	773	22
1967	557	36
(up to Nov. 1)	3943	143

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Those who have defeated the U.S. war of destruction in North Viet Nam: People's Army A.A. artillerymen

THE EURE PEOPLE BEHOLD PRESIDENT HO'S MESSAGE

"Stiffen our determination to fight and win, our resolve to liberate the South, defend the North and achieve ultimate peaceful national reunification"

Editor's note: On November 3, 1968, the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front held an enlarged extraordinary session to examine the situation created by recent events. We give below an excerpt from the declaration made public at the end of the meeting.

Our people have defeated the American imperialists and the destruction in the North. But this is only an initial success as the south of our country is not yet liberated. The resistance to U.S. aggression put up by our entire people still has to stand hand in hand. President Ho Chi Minh has pointed out:

"The sacred duty of our entire people at present is to stiffen our determination to fight and win, our resolve to liberate the South, defend the North and achieve ultimate peaceful national reunification."

In order to fulfill this heavy but glorious task, all political parties, mass organizations and youth organizations affiliated to the Viet Nam Fatherland Front must enhance our national unity under the Party's leadership, banner, stimulate all the 17 million North Vietnamese to address themselves to socialist

construction and give active support to the frontlines to help it inflict decisive defeat on the American aggressors, to emulate one another in fulfilling the 1968 state plan, to step up agricultural and industrial production, successfully organize the material and spiritual life of the people, constantly brighten their vigilance, actively build up national defense, push up civil defense, keep order and security, protect the property of the state and the people, stand ready to foil further plots of the enemy, step up international activities and enlist greater support and assistance from the world's peoples.

In the flush of our past victories, our fellow-countrymen and fighters throughout the country will raise their revolutionary spirit and demand the Party's leadership to bring our anti-U.S. resistance and national salvation to complete success.

Let's Fulfill Our Sacred Duty To our Southern Kith-and-Kin

(Abridged translation of an editorial of Nhan Dan)

DURING the past four years of the U.S. war of destruction against the Northern part of our country, our armed forces and people have fought with matchless heroism and recorded glorious victories on the whole of the territory and in all spheres of activity: on the A-A gunnates and on the communication lines, on the paddy fields and in the factories. In the organization of the people's life as well as in the laying of the material and technical bases of socialism, while meeting the needs of the fighting, production and the people's life.

Turning to account the revolutionary heroism of our people and the superiority of the new production relations, we have carried out the necessary measures for the building of the material and technical foundations of socialism. While meeting the needs of the fighting, we have increased the force of the people, thus creating the necessary prerequisites for large-scale construction of the country when circumstances permit. Socialist North Vietnam, great rear of the revolution of the entire country, is strengthening every day in all respects.

Agriculture has been forging vigorously ahead in the direction of intensive cultivation, having taken the initial step in the building of the necessary bases for its all-round development. The industrial network has expanded considerably. Parallel with maintaining the operation of key industrial branches at the central level, a network of industrial enterprises run by the local authorities has taken shape, one which jointly satisfies the needs of agriculture and those of the people's life. As a result, local economy has achieved a vigorous and balanced development. And in spite of U.S. bombings and shillings, transport and

SUSTAINING conscious the South and the North of our country, the U.S. imperialists have not halted unconditionally the air bombings and artillery and missile attacks on the whole territory of the D.R.V.N. just as President Ho Chi Minh has pointed out, this is "a victory of very momentous significance for our people's fight resistance against American aggression, for national salvation." (Resolution Appeal to the nation). However, the U.S. imperialists have not given up their aggressive

design. They continue to perpetrate daily innumerable crimes against our compatriots in the South. Therefore, it is the sacred task of every citizen in the North to push ahead the patriotic emulation movement for building socialism and fulfilling his duty to our brothers and sisters in the South, to heighten his vigilance and his determination to the consolidation of the North. In order to defeat the U.S. aggression, liberate the South, defend the North and reunification of the country, we must exert still bigger efforts, redouble our zeal, and our work with a view to pushing forward the economic growth and strengthening the North in all respects.

THE patriotic emulation movement for socialist construction in North Vietnam is in full swing. The correct leadership of the Viet Nam Women's Party and the D.R.V.N. Government, the revolutionary heroism of our people, the valuable assistance from the brotherly countries and the world's peoples are factors of our victory and guarantees of new successes. Developing the spirit of revolutionary offensive on the production growth and strengthening national capacities, we are determined to make of North Vietnam a great rear base of the South and fulfill our sacred duty to our Southern kith-and-kin.

No, the Struggle Is Not Over

ON an airfield somewhere in North Viet Nam, on Nov. 3, 1968, Mechanics and pilots of the First company had just finished preparations for a new fighting day when the Voice of Viet Nam, Radio broadcast President Ho Chi Minh's appeal to the nation.

La Van Lu, a mechanic, said to his mate, "How happy and proud we are! Uncle Ho has made it clear that after four years of a very heroic struggle, our armed forces and people have won a great victory, the defeat of the U.S. imperialists over of destruction in the southern part of our country. Our joy is great but as the enemy has not yet given up his aggression design and is still occupying the South, we must keep all our wits

about us and continue to fight hard. I'm H., a pilot who had to his credit five U.S. planes downed, repeated these words of the President: "More than a million American, puppet troops and imperialist troops still daily commission untold crimes against our Southern compatriots. So long as a single aggressor remains on our soil, we must continue our fight and wipe him out."

Then, Phuc and Than, pilots, said to one another: "It is always Uncle Ho who has revealed the feelings of the whole nation upon oppression."

"No, the struggle is not over. We must go on training hard to fight with efficiency when necessary."

And they successfully finished their flying training of the day.

President Ho's Orders Will Be Strictly Executed

ON the combat terrain of the Second company of A-A Unit S., the same day.

A gunner, versed in calligraphy, wrote on the blackboard the new motto: "Be vigilant and combat ready!" The head of battery N°6

Nguyen Tinh Tuong and his men were permanently on combat duty as if Johnson had not announced the cessation of air raids on the D.R.V.N.

President Ho's orders—which are also the Fatherland's—will be obeyed to the letter.

Work Five Times, Ten Times Harder Than in the Past

AT the post of Hai Phong, on Nov. 3, 1968.

Pilot Nguyen Minh Tinh, hailing from the South, who was just finished, volunteered for another watch. He said: "I'm not tired, let me keep another watch for the love of the country!"

At each N°4, teams N°4, 40-50 people, worked 30 to 70 tons of freight above norms.

Tran Thi Bay, head of a tractor team drivers' team at Doi N°4, enthusiastically reflected the feeling of her mates when she said: "We managed to overfulfill our targets even when American bombs fell on the fields. At present we must work five times, ten times harder than in the past to liberate the South and fight-and-win who continue to fight for national liberation."

Produce More Foodstuffs

"NEVER did our brigade discuss the production plan with such enthusiasm," said Nguyen Van Son, leader of Brigade N°4 of D.H. agricultural cooperative, Nam Ha province. President Ho's words were very touching and each of us should speed up his mind about what he is to do to be worthy of our heroic brothers and sisters in the South who now bear all the brunt of the war. The answer was quick to come: produce more food to help the South, defend the North and contribute to final victory."

She went on, "Our 1968 production plan is 100% completed. We shall try to harvest not 7 tons of paddy per hectare per year (two crops)

The Kid and the Combatant

EVENING was closing in. American planes had gone. We received orders to go and destroy bombs; uprime delayed-action bombs and duds.

We walked along a familiar path across grassy hills. It was usually lonely. We were however surprised to hear a noise and voices. We hastened our steps and saw a group of children scented dead though it was rather cool at that time of day. Four or five of them surrounded a seven-year-old boy who was hanging down his head and looking pitiful and visibly upset. Not far from him was standing a ten-year-old imp, the oldest of all, with arms akimbo, and a solemn air.

I asked them, gently: "What are you doing there, children?" Our intrusion did not seem to disturb their game. The eldest politely said: "We are at play, uncle."

"What's your game," I asked. "Interrogating an American air pirate," he said and went on with his game as if we were not there.

"Here is the American air pirate we have captured the pointed to the child who had a pitiful look; and I am acting a people's armyman conducting the questioning."

And turning to the poor child, he raised his voice, "Look at me, pirate, and answer my questions. Why did you bomb my parents' house? Why did you burn my clothing and the swaddling clothes of my baby sister? Why?"

And they waited for the reply of the pirate who remained silent a while, then, irritated at the villain's part he had to play, exclaimed, "No, I don't like this game. I'm not an Amer-

ican pirate. I am also a victim of his misdeeds. My blouse and my clothes were also burnt. Let's go home!" They broke up while we went on our way. But since that moment some of my childhood memories kept emerging in my mind. I met with the same mishap when I was their age in the first resistance war. One day my parents' hut was asphyxiated by a French warplane. We had nothing left, and my brothers and I had only the kneebraces we were wearing. One morning, the armyman who passed by our locality gave us a parachute from which our parents made us some clothes. Twenty years passed by and the story came up to my mind fresh as yesterday.

WE came close to a locality pock-marked with bomb craters. We worked through the night. At dawn, the salesgirls of an itinerant shop brought us beer and lemonade together with plenty of children's clothes. It was told that the things had been ordered by the gunners stationed in the locality for the children of whom they were the god-fathers. The salesgirls told us jokingly that they had enough clothes for our children too if we wanted any.

Without consulting each other, we picked out each a piece of clothing not for our children but for the little ones we had met. As for me, I bought a nice pink shirt with white flowers. On our way back to our encampment I dropped in at the hamlet in search for little Vinh, the little devil who had played the armyman interrogating the captured pilot.

Vinh was probably dying to accept my gift, as he had lost



Nghe An people's militia mounting guard on the sea coast

his things in the last bombing and gave his mother an inquiring look. As she nodded assent with a smile, he put on the shirt right away and jumped into my lap. "Dad is also in the army fighting the Yankees," he said. "I'll do the same when I grow up, won't I, uncle?"

DAISY eloped. The marauding planes continued obstinately to set on the region. I received orders to join the gunners. When I took up position near an A-A battery I suddenly saw in the heap of shells a piece of cloth. I took it up: it was a pink shirt with white flowers. Could it be the one I had bought for little Vinh? As I was still lost in astonishment, the little boy ran up to me.

I learnt that having escaped from his mother's watch, the boy went out and gathered leafy twigs to camouflage the ordnance pieces. When the American planes roared in, he got into an underground shelter and together with militia women started wiping shells. For fear of dismissal, he did not dare to ask for a rag and took off his own shirt and buckled down to the task. Nobody had time to scold him. When his mother, who was also a militiaman, came and scolded

the shells for the gunner, he disappeared in a corner. Unconsciously she trotted off with the ammo and... the shirt which had served for a rag.

I took little Vinh in my arms and with emotion told him tenderly, "Well done, child! We've brought down two Thunderbolts. This time, it wasn't a game. You have done your bit in this feat."

"Have I uncle?" he asked me and flung his slender arms around my neck.

G.D.

A U.S. PLANE DOWNED IN NAM HA

On November 8, at 13.30 hours, a pilotless U.S. plane violated the D.R.V.N. air space in Nam Ha province. It was immediately brought down by AA forces of the province, thus bringing to 3,244 the number of U.S. planes so far shot down over North Viet Nam.

NEWS IN BRIEF

● On September 30, 1968, Shipyard X in Haiphong fulfilled its 1968 plan. Its gross output value increased by 75.6 per cent, and its labour efficiency 16.4 per cent while its production cost was 1.9 per cent lower.

● In order to help with the winter-1968 - spring 1969 cultivation, the agricultural engineering workshop of Ha Tay province (a local enterprise) is turning out 8.5 H.P. universal tractors for agricultural cooperatives to farm hilly land as well as farmland. This kind of tractor is named "Binh Gia", after a locality in South Viet Nam in which a resounding victory was won by the P.L.A.F. over the enemy in 1964.

● In the first half of 1968, the highlanders in Dien Bien district, Lai Chau province (professional and amateur artists) — painters, sculptors, students of the College of Fine Arts, the Industrial Craft School and the people's art class in the capital city, — there were pastel drawings, oil paintings, lacquer works, silk-paintings, aquaplates, wood-carvings and posters.

cation network suitable to production and the fighting. Thanks to this effort, the transportation plan has been successfully fulfilled despite difficulties caused by rain and floods.

● Compared with the 1967-1968 school year, in the current school year, Quang Binh, a province near the 17th parallel constantly hit by American air and naval craft, has seen its pupil value increased by 10.00.

● On the occasion of the 32nd founding anniversary of the Viet Nam Women's Union (Oct. 20), the Artists' Association put up an exhibition of painting, sculpture and handicraft models created by women artists.



Those who have defeated the U.S. war of destruction in North Viet Nam: People's Army A-A militiamen.

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ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

Military Operations

In late Oct. and early Nov., fighting continued in all parts of South Viet Nam. Most remarkable were the P.L.A.F. attacks on the night of Nov. 1 against an adverse cantonment at Ba Chiem (50km North east of Tay Ninh) and two Saigon troops battalions at Ben Cat (50km north-northeast of Saigon), the sinking of 4 enemy vessels on the Dong Tranh river (linking Saigon to the sea) and the blasting down of a 300-metre long steel bridge in Thu Dau Mot, when north of Saigon.

Continual P.L.A.F. shelling also were reported of military targets in the provincial capitals of Quang Tri, My Tho, Kontum, Vinh Long, Bien Hoa, Camau and Tay Ninh, and others positions in Northern Quang Nam, Dong Ha, Doc Mien, and other places, causing losses among the adversaries.

IN THE VICINITY OF SAIGON

The P.L.A.F. operating in Tay Ninh made a surprise attack on a U.S. encampment at Ba Chiem (50km northeast of Tay Ninh) at dawn on Nov. 1. Right at the start, different columns of the P.L.A.F. dashed in, assaulted the U.S. C.P. and wiped it out. Other P.L.A.F. units chopped up the enemy formation and knocked out the defenders group after group. Within minutes, the assaulting forces wiped out 150 G.I.s, destroyed 31 tanks and 5 M-113 armoured troop carriers, and blew up 4 gun emplacements. On the morning of Nov. 1, Liberation anti-aircraft gunners brought down 3 choppers in the same area.

Gia Phong Press Agency further reported that in October guerrillas and regional troops in the same province engaged the enemy in 30 major and small battles, putting 500 U.S. and Saigon troops out of action, shooting down 4 aircraft and destroying 13 military vehicles.

In the 3 days ending Oct. 25, regional troops and guerrillas intercepted puppet soldier operating in various localities of Ben Cat and Ninh districts, respectively 40km north-northeast and 15km north of Saigon, killing or wounding 300 of them. In a dramatic action against 2 puppet paratroop battalions mobilized to 4 villages in Ben Cat district, the district regional armed forces put top enemy soldiers out of action. On Nov. 6, a 300-metre bridge spanning the Saigon river had two spans destroyed by the P.L.A.F. heavy casualties among American and puppet guards.

In Gia Dinh and Long An (Northeast and Southeast of Saigon) between Oct. 15 and Oct. 21, regional troops and guerrillas of the districts of Cai Cai (Gia Dinh) and Hoa and Duc Hoa (Long An) put out of action 353 adverse troops including 150 G.I.s, shot down 2 helicopters and destroying 5 armoured cars.

In Bien Hoa (50km North of Saigon), the province's regional armed forces on Oct. 23 ambushed a U.S. convoy comprising 4 L.M.C. freighters on Dong Tranh river (50km Southeast of Saigon) sinking 3 and shooting the 4th ablaze. Two days earlier, Oct. 23, guerrillas using mines blew up a train loaded with troops and military goods on Route No. One, taking a heavy toll of adverse lives.

On the afternoon of Nov. 5, Liberation gunners scored direct hits at the U.S. military

cargoship "Jefferson" near the Nha Be oil tank farm, 10km South of Saigon. On Nov. 4 and Nov. 5, the Liberation fighters knocked down 3 U.S. choppers North and Northwest of Saigon's outer fringe.

In My Tho province, Mekong delta from the night of Oct. 31 to Nov. 1, Liberation artillerymen repeatedly pounded enemy positions in the provincial capital. The targets included the provincial Security Forces HQ, the puppet 7th Division's logistic camp and a base camp of the US 4th Infantry Division at

Binh Duc. The shelling touched off big fires, causing damage to many warehouses and many casualties.

IN CENTRAL TRUNG BO AND TAY NGUYEN

Light and moderate fighting was reported in Quang Nam, Binh Dinh, Kontum, and Lam Dong provinces.

In the 10 days ending Oct. 28, regional troops and guerrillas in Dien Ban and Duy Xuyen districts (South of Quang Nam) North of Quang Nam put 200 enemy troops out of action and shot down 2 aircraft.

In Binh Dinh, regional troops of Hoa Binh district (South of Bong Son town) on Oct. 9 fought off puppet soldiers on raiding missions in 3 villages, killing or wounding 160 of the raiders (one company completely destroyed). On the same day, 7 enemy aircraft were brought down and 2 M-113s destroyed.

In Kontum and Lam Dong (Western Highlands) between Oct. 26 and Nov. 2, the P.L.A.F. and regional troops wiped out many enemies, shot

down 8 helicopters (Kontum) and destroyed 5 military vehicles (Lam Dong). On Nov. 3, the P.L.A.F. in Phuoi shot down another helicopter.

A PART from these actions, from Oct. 20 to Nov. 6, the P.L.A.F. mounted



Liberation fighters ambushing enemy craft on Ham Luong river.

Sniper's Corner

U.S. - PUPPET REGIME OR A RING OF ROBBERS

In areas of South Viet Nam still occupied by the Americans and their puppets, theft and robbery are so daily occurrences. Worse still, the very so-called "authorities" are thieves and robbers: officers and men of the "Republican Army" and American "freedom fighters." The Saigon press euphemistically refers to them as "hakkaid bandits" and "foreigners." Whenever it reports about "foreigners snatching purses and robbing taxi-drivers," every reader knows for sure that the "foreigners" are none other than Thien-Ky-Huong's American "allies."

Here is a story run by the Saigon (Spout) of September 8, 1968, under the title: "Foreigner snatches purse": "On Sept. 5, Pham Thi Gien, a 25-year-old waitress at a restaurant, had just received her pay, 11,800 dong, which she put in her handbag. A foreigner ordered a drink. When she brought it to him, the man clutched at her purse and ran off. "Another report in the same issue says: "A 24-year-old waitress, 5 Mrs. Nguyen Kim Sa, who lives at 235 Truong Minh Quynh street, walking down Nguyen Dinh Chieu street when a Honda motorcycle carrying two hakkaid-band came up from behind. The man on the pillion clutched her bag and the motorcycle roared away."

The paper *Tien* (Forward) of August 9, 1968, reports: "At 6.30 on the afternoon

of the 4th of August, four young men stepped into a restaurant at the corner of Cong-Hoa and Tran Hung Dao streets and ordered food and drinks. The bill amounted to 200 dong. But they ignored it and tried to make off. The restaurant owner shouted for help. All four were subsequently found to be military men: Huynh Van Nha, Nguyen Van Tinh, Nguyen Huong and Ngo Minh Huynh Quang."

What about puppet officers? Here is a story in *Tien* of September 13, 1968: "Indeed we are in a period of upheaval... Anything can happen. Even a major attached to the Presidential Palace can turn out to be a thief! Major Kinh stole a Toyota car, put on it the license plate of his own jalopy, and sat at the wheel with a perfectly straight face. It was not because he was short of money, but simply because he wanted to live in style and thought whatever he did he could get away with it. A major, and on the staff of the Presidential Palace at that! Who would dare lay a finger on him!"

The above cases are but petty larcenies compared with the robberies perpetrated by the bigwig puppet regime, from "President," "Vice President" and "Prime Minister" downwards. The only difference

is that the press never dares to bring them to light. They are euphemistically called cases of "corruption," against which Tran Van Huong's "anti-corruption committee" appears to be completely powerless. The Saigon paper *Quay Tien* (Determined to Advance) of September 11 writes: "In our opinion, Premier Tran Van Huong and his administration should send the corruption doers straight away to court, and not worry about the names connected with them. The fact that he has preferred to send those doers to the President shows that he is seeking cover, knowing that

the reactions of powerful corrupt men could overthrow his Cabinet." Cong Luu, (Public opinion) another newspaper, remarks (August 4): "No head has been smashed so far in the anti-corruption drive, although Premier Huong's professed policy is to crush heads, not tails. In fact only the 'tails', i.e. small fry have been punished for petty graft, but the 'heads' are all alive and kicking."

Well, as the first casualties of a truly effective anti-corruption campaign would be the big bosses of the establishment itself, to put teeth into it would simply be suicidal, wouldn't it?

A CHANCE IN A THOUSAND!

UPI reported that this year half of Saigon's yes-men have been allowed by the U.S. to make trips abroad allegedly to "de-pollute" world public opinion.

On the whole, world public opinion maintains that the "Government of the Republic of Saigon" is nothing more than "a delapidated plank," "a rotten corpse," a "scarecrow" for the U.S., a "pack of lazy, corrupt, debauched and even villainous rulers who have faith in the future" and so on... Therefore, yes-men have been sent to "de-pollute" these views.

UPI complained that these hygienic airings had proved costly for the Americans. But for Saigoneses yes-men, it was the chance of a lifetime. Apart from the luxuries of

first-class hotels and dollar cash, they were free to indulge in smuggling.

For this reason, our representatives abroad have been hotly contesting these "missions," using even abusive language to one another.

As disclosed by the paper "Cos Ong" to clinch the dispute, the Saigon "House of Representatives" finally decided to resort to the lot. Lucky man would get the piece of cake and the devil take the hindmost.

The same paper, however, raised a question which gave cause to anxiety: "With this method, it might happen that luck favoured some know-nothings and do-nothings, then how would they manage to 'de-pollute' public opinion?"

The short-story